

INSPECTORS FALL ON TWO CONCERNS

Charged With Swindling Public Out of More Than \$40,000,000.

OFFICIALS ARE UNDER ARREST

Raid So Important That Postmaster-General Takes Charge in Person—Declares People Have Been Mulcted Out of \$40,000,000 by Fraudulent Use of Mails.

New York, November 21.—In raids so important that Postmaster-General Hitchcock took charge in person, his inspectors fell on two concerns this afternoon which they charge with swindling the public out of more than \$40,000,000 by fraudulent use of the mails.

Sheldon H. Burr, president of Burr Bros., Eugene H. Burr, secretary and treasurer of the firm, and Frank H. Tobey, its vice-president, were arrested in the first raid and held in \$20,000 bail each. The government charges that the firm sold between \$10,000,000 and \$20,000,000 of mining and oil stock worth little or nothing.

Charles L. Vaughan, a director of the Continental Wireless Telegraph and Telephone Company, incorporated in Arizona, was taken in the second raid and held in \$10,000 bail. Inspectors say his company has sold stock to the amount of at least \$1,000,000, which has brought in no return to the investors.

Vaughan is treasurer of the Columbia Finance Company, which acts as fiscal agent for the Continental Wireless Telegraph and Telephone Company, and had charge of the Continental offices in this city.

McNams Business.

Both raids to-day are further evidence that the government is warring against all alleged swindlers means business, and no longer will be content with issuing fraud orders denying them the use of the mails, but will press for convictions on criminal charges.

The present campaign began some months ago, and has resulted in the arrest of Louis Cella and his associates, charged with operating a string of bucket shops; the officers of the United Wireless Company, the El Progresso Banana Company, the United Exchange, of Chicago, the Steele-Miller cotton firm, of Corinth, Miss., and more than fifty other firms in all parts of the country.

Postmaster-General Hitchcock estimates that the public has been fleeced out of at least \$100,000,000 by get-rich-quick concerns in the last five years, but says their heyday has gone. The Post Office Department intends to keep after them every minute, and Mr. Hitchcock said to-day that other arrests, involving corporations that have sought investors the length and breadth of the country, are expected shortly. His statement follows:

"The arrest to-day by post-office inspectors of the principals in important companies, Burr Brothers, with offices in the Plafiron Building, and the Continental Wireless Company, with headquarters at 55 Pine Street, constitute two more cases in the series of investigations of the postal authorities have been making every minute against the fraudulent use of the United States mails.

With the work accomplished to-day seventy-eight such cases have been brought to a head during the year. It is estimated that the swindling operations of these seventy-eight cases have filched from the American people in a period of five years over \$100,000,000.

Plans Carefully Laid.

"The crusade now in progress is the result of a carefully laid plan of some months ago, the design in which was a thorough reorganization of the inspection service with the selection of a new chief post-office inspector. Certain changes were made, reorganization was affected, and instructions were issued to the newly assigned inspector in charge to take up and prosecute vigorously all pending cases of frauds against the mails. Owing to the extent of these cases and the large amount of work involved, it was necessary to detail a considerable portion of the force of post-office inspectors. The best men in the service were selected for this work and were sent to their tasks with the assurance that the department at Washington would back them up to the fullest extent. In order to strike at the root of this evil, the department directed its agents to go after the men higher up in these gigantic schemes to defraud, and to allow no influence, however powerful, to prevent the proper punishment of the offenders. Through the assistance of the Attorney-General, the full cooperation of his department was secured in the successful carrying out of this crusade.

Vast System of Fraud.

"As the work of investigation proceeded, it became apparent that the fraudulent use of the mails was far more extensive than had been realized by the department. A vast system of fraud as far-reaching in its ramifications as the postal service itself had been developed by unscrupulous men, who, through the grossest form of misrepresentation, were stealing from the people millions of dollars annually. These fraudulent operations have not only swindled thousands of innocent investors, but have created a lack of confidence in legitimate business enterprises. It is therefore as important to the business community to have these frauds stopped as it is to the people whose losses are directly traceable to them."

The Postmaster-General declares in conclusion that "the results already accomplished by the department represent only the beginning. The work of investigation and prosecution will proceed with all possible vigor until the swindling of the people through the use of the mails is brought to an end."

The specific charge against Vaughan set forth in the complaint of William R. Robinson, postal inspector, is that on April 4, 1910, he devised a scheme to defraud Walter N. Atkin, of 2001 Clay Street, Topeka, Kan., and divers

TEACHERS GATHER FOR CONFERENCE

South's Most Notable Educational Meeting Is Expected.

PROGRAM FULL OF GOOD THINGS

State Teachers to Hold First Session This Afternoon, and General Conference To-Night. Agricultural Section Has Two Meetings To-Day.

From the smiling and fertile farms of the Valley of the Shenandoah, which makes men and substance; from the mountain fastnesses of the South-west, where the tap of the miner's pick chants the anthem of prosperity as the wealthy comes from the everlasting hills; from where the cattle on a thousand bluegrass farms feed the epicures of Europe; from the sunny fields of cotton and tobacco in the Southside; from the lands where the trees creak and groan under the burden of golden fruit; from Tidewater, where old ocean's gray and melancholy waste gives up its riches and where dwell they who go down to the sea in ships, from the streets of the cities which the sons of the new Virginia are building—came yesterday the teachers and educational workers of the Commonwealth.

They are in earnest, these men and women who are striving for the educational uplift of the race. Without the hope of those material rewards which come to those in other professions, they do what after all is the only work worth while—that which is done for the work's sake.

Many Meetings.

For four days they will be in Richmond attending conferences of all sorts and kinds—conferences of teachers as a body, conferences of school workers combined, conferences of superintendents and principals and college instructors and high school teachers and grammar grade teachers and primary teachers and manual arts teachers and agricultural teachers and domestic arts teachers.

They will go away with the inspiration which comes from association, from personal touch and interchange of experiences, from contact with the master minds in their profession in the State and in the nation.

Nothing is too good for them. The President of the United States will speak to the teachers of Virginia, indicating the importance with which their work is regarded by the world's foremost official. Men and women whose names are household words because they are men and women who have done things in the nation and in the State, will give of their counsel and of their knowledge, and aid in the final campaign of that successful warfare which has during the past century driven back the hosts of ignorance and superstition, and which within the next generation is destined to plant the banner of knowledge, which alone can make men free, upon the farthest ramparts of the nation.

Trip to Hampton.

The division school superintendents of the State are already on the job. Sixty-five of them met in Richmond yesterday and left at 4 o'clock to visit the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, as the guests of President H. B. Frisell. With them went State Superintendent J. D. Eggleston, Jr., Superintendent C. M. Hazen, of Chesterfield, and Supervisor of Elementary Schools Jackson Davis. They were met at Hampton by about fifteen others from the Tidewater section. This evening at 6:35.

At 4 o'clock this afternoon the State Teachers' Association, by far the largest of the four grand bodies which make up the Virginia Educational Conference, will hold its formal opening session in the auditorium of the John Marshall Hotel.

Miss Elizabeth Winston, president of the Richmond Co-operative Teachers' Association, and Assistant City Superintendent Albert Winston, will deliver the addresses of welcome, and the responses will be by Professor J. P. McConnell, of Emory and Henry College, and Dr. Charles M. Hazen, of Chesterfield. This will be a meeting of considerable importance, and will embrace the reports of delegates. After the appointment of committees the association will adjourn.

Night Sessions.

Of course, it is intended that the general meetings of the conference at night shall be the principal events. To-night's meeting will also be in the John Marshall Hotel, and it will be under the auspices of the Conference of Division Superintendents. Dr. Charles M. Hazen, of Chesterfield, will preside.

After R. C. Stearnes, chairman of the executive committee of the Virginia Educational Conference, has called the body to order, it will be welcomed to Richmond by City Superintendent J. A. C. Chandler. Then will come the address by the Governor, Mr. E. B. Smith, and the address by the President of the State Teachers' Association, Mr. J. P. McConnell.

An important part of this meeting will be a session of the Richmond Conservatory of Music, under the leadership of Director Frank E. Coyle, for whose services the committee expresses great appreciation. This will be a change from the official program, and will be a most enjoyable feature of the conference.

Agricultural Section First.

First of all the meetings will be that of the teachers of agriculture, a section of the department of industrial education. This will come at 10:30 this morning in the Mechanics Institute. These people will have another meeting at the same place at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

No other of the subordinate bodies which make up the State Teachers' Association will meet to-day. The executive committee of the association will meet at 10:30 this morning in the Mechanics Institute. At noon, and the executive committee of the department of principals will have a meeting at 2 o'clock at the John Marshall Hotel. At the two meetings of the agricultural section, the following topics will

HEAD OF NATION WILL BE CITY'S GUEST



BOARDER FIRED WHILE AT SUPPER

Shot Once at Mrs. Boze, Bullet Passing Under Her Up-raised Arm.

FLED AFTER LOSING PISTOL

Husband Seized Weapon, and in Excitement Boarder Disappeared.

Without a sign of warning, and while all the house were seated about the supper table, M. F. Watson, a boarder with the family, last night pulled a pistol from his pocket and fired point blank at Mrs. M. J. Boze, of 920 North Twenty-seventh Street. She was so startled that she was unable to move, but before Watson could fire again Mr. Boze had wrested the revolver from his grasp. Every one rose from the table, and there was turmoil in the house. Watson, bareheaded, ran into the street and disappeared.

Watson, who is an employee at the Richmond Cedar Works, has been a boarder with Mrs. Boze for nearly a year, and nothing eccentric had been noted in his habits. But last night, according to such information as could be gathered, he appeared to have been drinking. No other cause for his attempt on Mrs. Boze's life could be assigned. They had never quarreled, it was stated, and Watson had seemed to be satisfied.

Sat Down Quietly.

He came in as usual last night, and when the call for supper came, took his seat with Mr. Boze and his wife and the other members of the family.

Mrs. Boze was in the act of raising a cup of coffee to her mouth, when Watson was seen to put his hand to his hip. A shot rang out, and Mrs. Boze sat still for a second. The bullet passed under her upraised arm, went through the chair on which she was seated, and entered the wall behind her back.

Mr. Boze, who was seated near Watson, jumped for him and grabbed the pistol. The tussle lasted hardly an appreciable length of time before Mr. Boze gained possession of the gun. Then Watson jumped up and ran out of the house and was gone.

Watson is about twenty-four years of age, and is unmarried.

CUT OFF AN EAR

For His Crime, Union Worker Is Sent to Prison.

WOMAN STARTED FIRING FROM CAR

Fair Enthusiast Pulled Trigger on Rifle of Private Soldier.

FIVE MEN TRIED BY COURT

Two Sergeants Accused of Neglect of Duty in Permitting Fusillade.

"The woman gave me of the tree, and I did eat."

This plea is as old as the world, and women say that ever since Adam broke the primeval law, men have been blaming the fair and gentle sex with furnishing the incentive for all their faults and follies.

The rule might not find an exception at this late date, it was brought out yesterday in the course of the court-martial for the trial of the soldiers who fired their weapons from a Broad Street car on Labor Day, that a woman fired the first shot. She seems to have been a friend or acquaintance of one of the privates, and her finger, pressed in wilful caprice on the trigger, caused a fusillade which has brought four men into Police Court, and two non-commissioned officers on the rack for neglect of duty, and has brought the commissioned officers into no little unpleasant notoriety.

Like a Gentleman.

Not that the information came out yesterday. The private whose rifle was first discharged, by a girl, manfully swore on his own trial that he had fired the shot himself. He said the same thing when a witness against one of the sergeants. It was only on his cross-examination, in the very last of the five cases tried, that under questioning from Lieutenant J. Randolph Tucker, the judge advocate, that he accidentally let the information drop. Then it all came out. Having striven to follow the example of a certain royal witness in a certain hearing, he was not to be blamed for finally letting the cat out of the bag.

As a net result of the trials, it would appear that the two sergeants are possibly facing more serious punishment than are the privates, although nobody will know positively until the verdict reaches the Governor. After the hearing of each case, the court-martial went into executive session to consider its findings, but these will be turned into the regular military channels, and will probably not reach the Adjutant-General in less than two weeks, for the stenographer must transcribe the evidence before the papers are signed by the court.

Tried Five.

The five men tried were, in the order named, Private George Campbell, Private Harry Meredith, Private Frank Scroggs, Sergeant Sexton Berg and First Sergeant F. B. Joyce. The three privates named, together with Private Elmer Lenthart, were tried in Police Court soon after the occurrence, and

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CITY COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION

Representatives of Democratic Party in Richmond Petition State Committee.

MYERS PRESENTS REASONS

Demands Platform on Which Democrats Can Stand or Leave Organization.

Unanimously calling upon Chairman J. Taylor Elyson and the State Democratic Committee to order a convention of the party in Virginia for the purpose of writing a platform, "prior to any nomination for the General Assembly," the City Democratic Committee of Richmond last night put the movement for a convention in formal motion. There was considerable debate, but no real objection to the proposition to have a platform convention of the Democrats of Virginia.

After setting forth the demand for such a meeting, and its need from the standpoint of furnishing a list of principles on State issues, the resolutions say that matters of vital importance are to come before the next Legislature, and that it is desirable to have a chart by which candidates can steer their course. Roads, schools, the income tax, primary elections, convict labor are the issues named.

Needs a Rudder.

Presenting the set of resolutions addressed to the State Committee, Captain William M. Myers, of Lee Ward, began by saying that he has realized for some time that the Democratic party in Virginia is adrift on the sea of government without steering gear. "The platform of any party," he asserted, "is the most vital portion of its anatomy. It is the fountain at which the candidate for office drinks for the wisdom of the majority and asks for the votes of his fellow-citizens."

Nearly ten years have passed since the Democratic party in Virginia has had a platform on State matters. The result is that a Legislature is elected by Democratic votes, of which in reality every member is an Independent. They are not to blame. They have had nothing to indicate to them what the Democrats of the State wanted. Like an emblem of a nation, a platform of a party should stand for an ideal, and like the flag of a country, the voters of the party will cherish it. Without it the machinery of a party will become stagnant, and the final result is that the voter is uninterested in the problems of government which should claim his attention."

Questions for Platform.

"There are many vital matters," continued Captain Myers, "which should be acted upon in convention. One of these is in reference to the contract for convict labor for the manufacture of shoes. Shall we continue to pay revenue to the capitalists of the East, or shall we work our con-

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PRESIDENT TAFT COMING TO-NIGHT

Due Here From Old Point on Regular Train at 6:45 o'Clock

GOES TO DINNER AT WESTMORELAND

Will Drop by Commonwealth Club Later in Evening Before Going to Jefferson for the Night—Final Plans Made for Entertainment To-Morrow.

DUE OFF CAPES EARLY TO-DAY

At Sea on Board the U. S. Montauk, via Wireless, November 21.—President Taft's return home from Panama and Guantanamo, was in reality upon a high sea yesterday, when the United States cruiser Tennessee and her consort, the Montauk, were tossed about by a northwesterly storm off the northern coast of Florida. For hours the vessels heeled against a forty-mile gale, and were tumbled in the turbulent seas. The President demonstrated that he is a good sailor and thoroughly enjoyed the blow.

When the storm struck the speed of both vessels was reduced from seventeen to fifteen knots. Early to-day the gale cleared, and in a fresh breeze the vessels steamed with renewed speed toward the Cape. It is expected the Cape Hatteras will be reached early Tuesday morning, and that the President will disembark at Old Point Tuesday noon.

President William Howard Taft will arrive in Richmond at 6:45 o'clock this evening in a special car attached to the regular Chesapeake and Ohio train from Old Point. He will be met at Old Point by a committee of citizens, and on reaching the city will go to the Westmoreland Club, where he will dine. Later he will attend a reception given by members of the Commonwealth Club, and will spend to-night at the Jefferson Hotel.

To-morrow morning the President will be the guest of Governor Mann at breakfast at the Executive Mansion. He will be escorted in a parade out Monument Avenue by the Virginia Polytechnic Institute Cadets, with a detail of the Richmond Light Infantry Blues, with several hours motorcade in the battlefields of interest about the city and will be entertained at luncheon at the Jefferson Hotel, when about 250 citizens will be present. At 4 o'clock to-morrow afternoon he will deliver a public address before the Virginia Educational Conference at the City Auditorium, and will leave for Washington from Eba Station shortly after 5 o'clock.

Plans Approved in Washington.

Business Manager Dabney, of the Chamber of Commerce, and Assistant Postmaster I. W. Fuller went to Washington yesterday and held an extended conference with Assistant Secretary of the President, Rudolph Forster, who approved all of the plans for the President's stay in Richmond.

Captain Wright, of the Secret Service Bureau in Washington, spent yesterday in Richmond, and consulted Chief of Police Werner as to the plans for insuring the President's safety en route, the inspecting the railway stations, the various entrances and exits at the Jefferson Hotel, the clubs, the Governor's Mansion and the City Auditorium. The corps of cadets of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute will arrive in Richmond to-morrow morning about 6 o'clock, and will be the guard of the President during the day. The Blues' Armory, and an entertainment will be given by the Richmond College German Club in their honor to-morrow night.

Meet President at Old Point.

A special reception committee will leave here at 1 o'clock to-day to meet the President and party at Old Point. The committee will use the private car of President George W. Stevens, of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, in which the President will return to Richmond. Members of this reception committee will be President Henry W. Wood, of the Chamber of Commerce; Major James C. Hemphill, President George W. Stevens, President William H. White, of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad; Ex-Governor Andrew Jackson Montague, Lieutenant-Governor J. Taylor Elyson, Samuel Cohen, Colonel Barton H. Grundy, Business Manager William T. Dabney, of the Chamber of Commerce; Judge R. R. Pentis, chairman of the State Corporation Commission; Henry W. Anderson, Wyndham R. Meredith, Allen Potts, Colonel Joseph E. Willard and Eppa Hunton, Jr.

Lunch will be served on the car going down, and the reception committee will be on the Old Point dock when the presidential party will come to the United States cruiser Tennessee. On which vessel the trip from Panama by way of Guantanamo has been made.

Arrives Here in Evening.

Several special cars, containing the President and his guests, the reception committee and the newspaper correspondents who accompanied the President to Panama will be attached to the regular Chesapeake and Ohio train due to arrive in Main Street Station at 6:45 o'clock this evening. Should the Tennessee and her consort, the Montauk, be delayed in entering the Virginia Capes, the party will come to Richmond by special train later in the evening.

The President and his immediate guests will go at once to the Westmoreland Club, where they will dine with the members of the reception committee which went to Old Point. President J. G. Farland, of the club, will preside. At 9 o'clock the President and party will be escorted by the same reception committee to the Commonwealth Club.

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AVIATORS SPEND DAY AT GROUNDS

Garros, Simon, Barrier and Frisbie Ready for Flights To-Morrow.

HAMILTON TO ARRIVE TO-DAY

Moisant Expected in Time for Opening of Meet, at Which Five Types of Flying Machines Will Be in Air at Once—School Children Invited.

Ready for their hazardous feats and to dare the laws of gravitation, four members of the International Aviators—Roland Garros, Rene Barrier, Rene Simon and John Frisbie—arrived here early yesterday afternoon and went at once to the Jefferson Hotel, where they will be quartered during their stay here. Alfred J. Moisant, president and treasurer of the aviation company; Misses Mathilde and Louise Moisant, sisters of the aviator; Charles K. Hamilton and P. L. Young, general manager of the company, will arrive at 7:20 o'clock this morning.

John B. Moisant, world-famed as the winner of the Statue of Liberty prize and the first and only man to fly with a passenger from Paris to London, is expected to reach here Wednesday morning from Cuba.

With the exception of the Frenchmen, all the aviators are well known in this country, where they have performed at dizzy heights and fulfilled ancient prophecy. The Frenchmen are famous—like the prophets of old—in their own country. They can do as much here as in France, and they are ready to fly as far and as high as their American competitors.

Six in Air at Once.

All of them will be seen in the air every day, sometimes the six men being up together. At other times they will fly separately, each working his own individual feat, trying for speed, distance, duration and altitude.

Richmond will see a galaxy of stars, human meteors, as it were tripping and driving about the airplanes in defiance of the ancient prediction that nothing heavier than air could ever be sustained above ground.

But all this has already been proved beyond doubt or question. Man has conquered the air as he has conquered other things, and now he is reaching out for the joy to all mysteries, the end, perhaps of all things, when man shall be in truth a demigod, driving nature at his will. The airplane is already in service, being put to practical utility, and some day in the near future, declares John B. Moisant, airplanes will be topping the billows of the Atlantic and carrying mails and passengers between the two continents.

But the aviation meet in Richmond will be purely in the nature of an exhibition, an educational display of what has now been made possible by development of the heavier-than-air machine. The meet will begin at 2 o'clock to-morrow, and will continue four days, the first flight on Saturday being made at 1 o'clock, so that all who cannot come on other days will have ample opportunity to witness what the machines can do, what progress has been made in the past years in the art of aviation, and to foresee for themselves the wonderful future that the art of flying is sure to have.

Five Types Here.

Five types of air machines will be in daily use. J. B. Moisant, Rene Simon and Rene Barrier will be seated in the famous Bleriot monoplane. "The Demolisher," some times called "The Mud Hen," the "Humming-Bird," the "Mud Hen," the "Hornet," the smallest and the most graceful of all, will be Roland Garros, one of the two men to succeed, where over a hundred have failed, in flying a machine whose moods and tenes have usually resulted in fatal accident.

Charles K. Hamilton, who started the world by successfully flying from New York to Philadelphia and back again, landing at Governor's Island, at the rate of 52.5 miles an hour, for 172 miles, will use his Hamiltonian type of biplane. John J. Frisbie, who though not so well known as some others, will arrive in the Rochester biplane, owned by himself.

John B. Moisant, besides possessing a Bleriot, has a Moisant type of monoplane, developed by himself, and in this he and Garros will be seen. Hamilton also owns and operates a special Bleriot, which in speed contests deals death to time. With the Bleriot, second count where minute counts before. They speed like nesting swallows, or like homing pigeons; they fly and flying with them is but a synonym for speed.

Thrilled by Johnstone.

Richmond has seen only two aviators—really only one—before. Two years ago Charles Foster Willard did a sort of hop, skip and jump stunt in a Curtis biplane at the Fair Grounds. This year there came the famous Ralph Johnstone, who really flew in a Wright biplane and caused breathless thousands to marvel as he smiled and soared. Last week he died, died an aviator's death, as he would have wished to die, fighting grimly against the death he had so often faced. Something broke, no one knows what, though many theories have been advanced, and he came down 500 feet to his last landing.

And this is the main thing all aviators have to face the weakness of their own machines. They possess full confidence in themselves, but the mere loosening of a bolt may mean certain death. So while they sport with the winds, death rides close behind. Science has always exacted its toll of human lives. And science is being conquered only by death.

Hamilton Comes To-Day.

With Charles K. Hamilton arriving this morning and John B. Moisant early to-morrow—in plenty of time, it is believed, to appear in the air while